

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 766
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SUBJ: NIMETZ VISIT: PRESS COMMENTARY

REF: ANKARA 1346 (DTG 211405Z FEB 78)

1. SUMMARY: ARRIVAL OF DEPT COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND
DELEGATION REPORTED IN VIRTUALLY ALL PAPERS FEBRUARY 22.
PRIMIN ECEVIT, IN ANSWER TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION, SAID
THAT THE GOT IS PREPARED FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION OF
"CONCRETE PROPOSALS" WHICH HE ALLEGED WERE PRESENTED BY
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TURKS DURING VANCE VISIT IN JANUARY. TERCUMAN REPORTS
SECRETARY VANCE, IN TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO
REVIEW THE ARMS EMBARGO. TERCUMAN SEPARATELY REPORTS
THAT THE GOT WILL RECOMMEND NEGOTIATION OF AN
"ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL" TO THE DEFENSE COOPERATION
AGREEMENT (DCA). MILLIYET SAYS NIMETZ WILL INFORM THE

GOT ON PLANS FOR SUBMITTING THE DCA TO CONGRESS IN MARCH. DEFMIN ISIK COMMENTED ON THE "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT" AND THE US-TURKISH SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH REPORTERS ON FEBRUARY 21, PRIMIN ECEVIT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE IS HOPEFUL TALKS WITH THE NIMETZ DELEGATION IN ANKARA WILL REACH A POSITIVE CONCLUSION IN A SHORT TIME. HE ADDED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE VANCE VISIT IN JANUARY WERE NOT LIMITED TO MILITARY QUESTIONS, BUT INCLUDED A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS REGARDING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ECEVIT ADDED, "WE HAVE MADE SEVERAL CONCRETE PROPOSALS" AND AGREED THAT TECHNICAL LEVEL TALKS SHOULD BE HELD.

3. IN A FRONT-PAGE STORY, OPPOSITION TERCUMAN REPORTS THAT SECRETARY VANCE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE FY 79 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION FEBRUARY 21. ACCORDING TO THE TERCUMAN REPORT, DURING HIS TESTIMONY VANCE SAID, "RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO IMPOSED ON TURKEY HAS HAD THE NECESSARY EFFECT. WILL THE EMBARGO CONTINUE? THIS IS THE QUESTION." THE HEADLINE INDICATES THAT THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID, "THE TIME HAS COME TO REVIEW THE ARMS EMBARGO". ACCORDING TO TERCUMAN, CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES ARE SAYING THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS STILL NOT YET GIVEN THE NECESSARY SIGN THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO SHOULD BE LIFTED.

4. IN ITS REPORTING ON THE NIMETZ VISIT, TRCUMAN SAYS THAT DURING THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THE GOT WILL PROPOSE AN "ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL" TO BRING THE DCA UP TO DATE. AN OFFICIA ALLEGEDLY FAMILIAR WITH GOT EXPECTATIONS IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE NEED TO REVIEW TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAS ARISEN. WITH REFERENCE TO THE DCA, THE OFFICIAL CONTINUED THAT THE COSTS OF TURKEY'S ARMED FORCES' NEEDS HAVE RISEN WHILE THE WORTH OF ASSISTANCE FORESEEN IN THE DCA HAS DECLINED.

5. MILLIYET'S SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT NILUFER YALCIN, IN A FRONT PAGE STORY ON THE NIMETZ VISIT, INDICATES THAT THE DCA WILL BE TAKEN UP IN MARCH BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES. SHE ADDS THAT THE NIMETZ DELEGATION IS BRINGING THIS INFORMATION TO TURKEY. HER ARTICLE ALSO INDICATES THAT THE GOT WILL REQUEST AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC STEPS, SUCH AS SEEKING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS.

6. DURING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET DEBATES ON FEBRUARY 21, MINDEF ISIK IS REPORTED TO HAVE DISCUSSED FURTHER THE "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT" AND TURKISH-AMERICAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE MODEL TO BE ADOPTED FOR TURKEY'S NATIONAL DEFENSE WILL ADDRESS HER SECURITY NEEDS AND BE IN ACCORD WITH TURKEY'S ECONOMIC MEANS. HE ACCUSED THE FORMER GOVERNMENT OF ASKING THE US FOR \$1 BILLION IN AID IN RETURN FOR OPENING MILITARY BASES WHILE THE GREEKS WERE SEEING AN AMERICAN GUARANTEE OF GREEK RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN AND LAND CONCESSIONS IN CYPRUS. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US MUST GO BEYOND THE MILITARY FIELD; IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR THE US TO CONTRIBUTE ONLY TO TURKEY'S MILITARY STRENGTH, UNCLASSIFIED

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HE CONTINUED. ISIK ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT TURKEY WANTS TO AVOID DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDERS SO THAT HER ALLIANCE TIES CANNOT BE USED TO HER DETRIMENT VIS-A-VIS OTHER, NON-ALLIANCE NATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, ISIK MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE 1960 U-2 INCIDENT. SPIERS

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